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Brayley House

Jessie Godman
June 1904

BROOKE HOUSE, HACKNEY. BY
ERNEST A. MANN, ARCHITECT.
BEING THE FIFTH MONOGRAPH
OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE
SURVEY OF THE MEMORIALS
OF GREATER LONDON.

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AN INTRODUCTORY NOTE. BY C. R. ASHBEE.

IT is a privilege to have seen Brooke House, and all dwellers in East London—indeed all Londoners—are the gainers by being reminded that so beautiful a thing is still with us. Mr. Mann's monograph, giving as it does a careful and well-planned account of the whole fabric, speaks for itself ; but a word from the Editor may perhaps be permitted as to the value and purpose generally of antiquarian research among existing buildings, and as to what the Committee's special function may be said to be in regard to it.

This function may be termed an educative one. We desire to remind Londoners of the beautiful things still in their midst, and to encourage an endeavour and determination for their maintenance.

It is often difficult, it is often costly, to do this, but it is never impossible where the public are sufficiently educated to desire the maintenance of historical & beautiful architecture. In two of our previous publications the Committee had to lament the destruction of noble buildings which, with a little more intelligence on the part of local governing bodies, could quite well have been saved & turned to wise public service. Scarce two weeks after the appearance of the Committee's monograph on the Great House, Leyton, the splendid work of Sir Fisher Tench—with the Thornhill frescoes, the fine later Adam's workmanship, the terraced garden, and all the other beautiful things it contained—was relegated to the housebreaker, and swept away. We now see spawned over the site rows of tiny brick cottages, & doubtless in a few years some enlightened Councillor of Leyton will be raising the twin cries of overcrowding and the need for a public library, garden, and institute ; whereupon ten times the sum that bought the Great House will be levied on the rates, and nothing near so fine as what we have lost will be given us again. It is a curious reflection how singularly unpractical the average Englishman sometimes is, owing to the want of the æsthetic sense !

We trust some Councillors of Hackney who still appreciate the beauty of Brooke House may chance to see this, and so mock at the Councillors of Leyton.

C. R. ASHBEE,
Chairman of the Survey Committee.

CHAPTER I. HISTORICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL.

“What boots it now to Percy’s gallant heir,
“That once he stood the rival to his King ;
“And side-long glances stole from Anna’s eyes.
“ . . . In yonder lonely churchyard laid,
“Scarcely distinguished from the common dead,
“No noises now rouse up the list’ning sense,
“Save that, from yon old tower, our village clock
“Strikes on the ear his deep and drowsy chime.”*

SO sang the local poet of a dead and gone generation, and the sentiment is no less applicable to the subject we are about to consider, in this more modern but less poetic age. The stately dead still live in history’s page ; the old tower still stands ; and Brooke House—where once dwelt “Percy’s gallant heir”—with all its associations of a regal past, and much of its original splendour, remains to us. One marvels that the rapacity of the modern speculator has permitted this old-world mansion, with its acres of ground ripe for the brick-and-mortar harvest, to remain so long untouched.

Although, in a sense, ‘Ichabod’ might fitly be inscribed across the portal of Brooke House, yet we shall hope to show, before we turn the last page of this monograph, that much of its ancient glory remains, a precious heritage to those who revere and love the memorials of the past.

It is not surprising, in attempting to trace the history of such a parish as Hackney back to the time of the Conquest, to find some divergence in the conclusions arrived at by the various historians of the intervening periods.

At the Conquest, all England became vested in William I., as in fee. To whom he allotted the lands in Hackney it is impossible, in the absence of all record or tradition, to determine. The principal manor of Hackney (says Lysons,† writing a century ago) was formerly parcel of the bishopric of London ; and, though not mentioned in the record of Domesday, was, it is probable, included in the Survey of Stepney.

“In the reign of Henry III., when the first mention of the place occurs as a village, it is called Hackenaye and Hacquenye ; and in a patent of Edward IV. granting the manors of Stepney and Hackney to Thomas Lord Wentworth, it is styled Hackeney otherwise Hackney.”‡

* “*La Bagatella.*” † Quoted in MSS. ‘*Hist. of Hackney.*’ J. Thomas.

‡ Walford’s ‘*Old and New London.*’ Vol. V. p. 512.

In the year 1233 the Knights Templars purchased in this parish half a hide of land with its appurtenances, of Ralph de Burgham, for sixteen marks sterling. This order—the Knights Templars—was in 1312 disannulled in England, and the knights, being condemned to perpetual penance, were sent into monasteries where, it is recorded, they behaved themselves modestly. The Temple, with all the lands belonging to it in the City & suburbs, was given to Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, by Edward II. in 1307 with remainder to the king and his heirs, by which entail it came again to Edward III. in 1327, who gave it to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John Baptist of Jerusalem.* It is recorded that when Philip de Tame, prior of Saint John of Jerusalem (to which monastery all the possessions of the Knights Templars were granted upon the dissolution of that Order) took possession of them, he was admitted by suit of Court. An annual quit rent was also paid to the Bishop of London.†

The Bishop of London had a grant of free-warren in Hackney in the year 1291.

There was formerly a manor termed “The King’s Manor” in the parish of Hackney, granted in the fifteenth year of Richard II., 1392, to the Earl of Cambridge, whose title is still recognised in “Cambridge Heath,” a neighbouring district.

Tradition has carried the origin of this denomination—the King’s Manor—as high as King Alfred, from whose grant the Kings-land is probably descended.‡

The manor of Hackney seems to have been—from about the year 1410—part of the dowry of the English queens, and there is record of a grant of the “Manor of Hackneis” (with other lands) to Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV., dated July 7, “in the seventh year of our reign” (1467).

After the dissolution of the Priory of S. John of Jerusalem this estate at Hackney appears to have been granted to Henry, Earl of Northumberland.

The Crown having resumed the immediate tenure of all the Church lands in Hackney—which comprehended those of the Monastery of St. John, the Hospital of St. Mary, and the demesne of the Bishop which included the manors of the Rectory—these were bestowed on certain lay persons for good and faithful services done the King; and hence arose the manors of Lordshold, Kingshold, and Brooke, the two former of which, with that of the Rectory or Grumbold now chiefly remain.§

Robinson, in his history of Hackney, states that the manor of Lordshold

* *Mag. Britt.*, 1724. † *Lysons*. ‡ *Walford’s Old & New London*.
§ *Papers relating to Hackney Manors: Tyssen Lib.*

was co-extensive with the parish of Hackney, and was in the time of Edward VI. valued at £61 9s. 4d.

This estate at Hackney having been granted by the King, probably in trust, to the Earl of Northumberland, was re-conveyed by this nobleman in 1535 to Sir Thomas Audley, Lord Chancellor, and others, for the King's use ; but it appears, nevertheless, that the Earl kept possession of it till his death which happened two years afterwards "at his manor of Hackney." It then reverted to the Crown, and from that time was called the Manor of King's hold.*

It appears that it was the King's intention to have bestowed the manor upon Sir William Herbert, K.G., Earl of Pembroke, Gentleman of the Privy Chamber, and the lineal descendant of Sir William Herbert ap Thomas of Raglan Castle, Mon., who was knighted for his valour in the French wars by Henry V. ; but before this intention could be put in force the King died. This event was not allowed to defeat the intentions of the deceased monarch ; consequently Edward VI. and his Council in pursuance thereof, by letters patent A.D. 1547 (the first of his reign) granted Sir William Herbert for the support of his high appointment a manor in Hackney "of the clear yearly value of 40 marcs,"† or, according to Lysons, £39 15s. 4d. per annum.

In the grant to Sir William the manor is termed "part of the Kings Majesty's purchased lands" and is called "our Lordship and manor of Hackney."

The letters patent define the manor to be "all and singular our houses, edifices, barns, stables, dove-houses, buildings, gardens, orchards, garden-grounds, lands & soil being within the scite, enclosure, circuit, compass, or precinct of the said capital mansion." This "capital mansion" can be no other than Brooke House, which is described as "a fayre house, all of brick, with a fayre hall and parlor, a large gallery, a proper chapel, and a proper library to laye books, in, &c.," situated on the London Road and enclosed on the back side with a broad and deep ditch which formed the "scite, circuit, or precinct" referred to, which certainly does not at all coincide with the description of the manor of Hackney or the Kingshold as set forth in the letters patent of James I., by which it was granted to Hugh Sexey and others. Brewer, in his "Beauties of England & Wales," states that "the Manor House of Kingshold, long termed Brooke House, is yet remaining, and is now used as a receptacle for insane persons under the direction of Mr. Holmes." Wheatley and Cunningham‡ also agree that Brooke House was the manor house of the Manor of Kingshold, and was sometimes known as Kingshold. It would therefore seem that what

* *Lysons.*

† *MSS. Hist. Thomas.*

‡ "London, Past and Present."

was known as the Manor of Brooke was ultimately merged into that of Kingshold. Besides, the Manor of Hackney did not necessarily imply that of Kingshold, since the Lordshold and Kingshold both have the general description of Manors of Hackney.*

Another historian however states, and the record is quite authentic, that "the manor belonged of old to the Bishop of London till Dr. Nicholas Ridley, bishop of that see, by indenture bearing date April 12, 4 Edward VI. about the time of the Reformation, granted or surrendered this manor," and all & singular the messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments, whatsoever to the said manor belonging or appertaining"—with that of Hackney—to the said king his heirs and successors for ever, in consideration of certain other lordships.

The Earl of Pembroke, in the same year in which the grant was made to him, sold the manor to Sir Ralph Sadleir. From him it passed the year following to Edward Carew, Esq., and having continued for some years in that family, by a quick succession was alienated in 1578 by Richard Carew, Esq., to Sir Henry Carey, first Lord Hunsdon, by whom it was conveyed in 1583 to Sir Rowland Hayward.

In 1596 this manor, with the capital mansion called the King's Place (then lately in the tenure of Sir Rowland Hayward), was conveyed by Anthony Radcliffe and others (the executors, it is probable, of Sir Rowland) to Elizabeth Countess of Oxford, who in the year 1609 alienated the Manor of Hackney, (*i.e.* this of the Kingshold), with four messuages, two cottages, two tofts, &c., 100 acres of land, 50 of meadow, 100 of pasture, and 20 of wood, in the parishes of Hackney and Tottenham, to Fulke Greville (afterwards Lord Brooke) his heirs and assigns. Soon afterwards by some grant or exchange the manor (formerly valued at £39 15s. 4d.) became vested in the Crown; "for," says Lysons, "I find it granted by letters patent of James I. anno. 1614 [9th May 1615, according to John Thomas] to Hugh Sexey, Henry Mildmay, Thomas Laud, and Thomas Banckes, their heirs and assigns for ever, for the sum of £296, reserving certain portions however." Hugh Sexey subsequently purchased the interests of Thomas Laud and Thomas Banckes; and in 1619 the manor was vested in Sir Laurence Hyde and nine others; in 1633 Humphrey Hurleston, Esq., of the Inner Temple; and in 1644 William Benning, gentleman, of Tottenham High Cross. It was afterwards, in 1646, the property of William Hobson, Esq., citizen of London, who died in 1662.

By his will William Hobson directed all his estates & manors in Hackney and elsewhere to be sold for the payment of his debts, but expressed a

* *Thomas' MSS. 'Hist. of Hackney.'*

desire that this manor of Saint John of Jerusalem (or the Kingshold) might if possible be reserved.*

In 1659 William Smith and others, who it is probable purchased it of the Parliamentary Commissioners, alienated it to William Hobson, Esq., whose three daughters and co-heirs married Sir William Bolton, Kt., Patient Ward, and William White, Esquires, who were Lords of the Manor till 1669, when they alienated it to John Forsyth, Esquire, citizen and alderman of London.†

In 1676 the property came to Nicholas Cary and Thomas Cook, goldsmiths, of London.‡

Other records state that the manor appears to have been alienated in 1677 by Benjamin Bannister, citizen & apothecary, and William White, citizen and haberdasher, as sons-in-law and trustees of William Hobson, to Sir George Vyner, whose first court was held in 1668. His father Sir Thomas Vyner, by his will bearing date 1665, directed £7000 to be laid out in the purchase of lands for his son Sir George.

During the tenure by Wm. Hobson, however, or his trustees, it is evident that the house was in the occupation for some time of Lady Brooke, as Evelyn in his Diary under May 8th, 1654, writes: "I went to Hackney to see my Lady Brooke's garden, which was one of the neatest and most celebrated in England, the house well furnished, but a despicable building."

Pepys also writes under date June 25, 1666: "Mrs. Pen carried us to two gardens at Hackney (which I every day grow more and more in love with) Mr. Drake's one, where the garden is good, and house and the prospect admirable; the other my Lord Brooke's, where the gardens are much better, but the house not so good, nor the prospect good at all. But the gardens are excellent; & here I first saw oranges grow: some green, some half, some a quarter, and some full ripe, on the same tree, and one fruit of the same tree do come a year or two after the other. I pulled off a little one by stealth (the man being mightily curious of them) and ate it, and it was just as other little green small oranges are: as big as half the end of my little finger. Here were also great variety of other exotique plants, and several labarinths, and a pretty aviary."

The manor was purchased in the year 1694 by John Sikes, Esq., of the co-heirs of Sir Thomas Vyner, Bart., the infant son of Sir George. Mr. Sikes in 1698 sold it to Francis Tyssen; in 1724 it was in the hands of Thomas Cook, as before noted; and in 1781 it became vested in John Dent, John Wormald, & the Rev. Peter Beauvoir, who held it as trustees

* *Lysons.* † *Hackney Journal*, April 1842.

‡ *Hackney Journal*, 1842.

until 1814, when it became the sole property by purchase, June 8, of William George Daniel Tyssen.

The mansion, now called Brooke House, was reserved by Lord Brooke, when he sold the manor, for his own residence, & it has continued ever since in his family, the freehold being now vested in the Earl of Warwick. The remainder of a long lease was assigned to the late Dr. Munro, and is now vested in his sons. The house, which was at the time of this recital by Lysons, in the immediate tenure of a Mr. Holmes, had then been for many years occupied for the reception of insane persons.

It will thus be seen that we are dealing with no ordinary structure, and that the long line of successive royalties, courtiers, gallants, wits, and statesmen, with whose careers the ancient manor and manor-house have been for so many centuries coincident, and whose history is so clearly defined & recorded, should make it one of the chief glories of this once-royal suburb—a treasure-house of sentiment and beauty, and as one of the last surviving remnants of the past, and the only baronial mansion in the neighbourhood, to be religiously preserved.

Appended is a table showing from the preceding notes the chronological succession of the owners and occupiers of the manor and manor-house from its earliest times :—

- 1233. The Knights Templars purchase land in Hackney.
- 1312. The Order disannulled & the property confiscated by the Crown and given by Edward II. to Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke.
- 1327. Reverting to the Crown, is given by Edward III. to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John Baptist of Jerusalem.
- 1410. Part of the dower of the Queen Margaret of England.
- 1467. Granted to Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV.
Dissolution of the Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem and confiscation by Henry VIII.
Presented by Henry VIII. to Henry, Earl of Northumberland.
- 1535. Reconveyed by Earl of Northumberland to Sir Thomas Audley for the King's use, the Earl still residing, and dying here two years after.
- 1547. Reverting to the Crown, the manor is bestowed by Edward VI. upon Sir William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke.
Purchased by Sir Ralph Sadleir from the Earl.
- 1548. Edward Carew.
Richard Carew.
- 1578. Sir Henry Carey, 1st Lord Hunsdon.
- 1583. Sir Rowland Hayward. (Q. Elizabeth's visit).
Anthony Radcliffe and others.



*Sir Henry Carey,
1st Lord Hunsdon.*

*From engraving
in Tyssen Library.*



*Sir Fulke Greville,
1st Lord Brooke.*

*From engraving
in Tyssen Library.*

1596. Elizabeth, Countess of Oxford.
 1609. Fulke Greville, Lord Brooke.
 The Crown. James I.
 1614 } Thomas Laud, Thomas Banckes, Hugh Sexey, and
 1615 } Henry Mildmay.
 Hugh Sexey purchased the interests of Laud and Banckes.
 1619. Sir Laurence Hyde and nine others.
 1633. Humphrey Hurleston of the Inner Temple.
 1644. William Benning of Tottenham High Cross.
 1646. William Hobson, Citizen of London.
 William Hobson's sons-in-law as trustees probably.
 1654. Lady Brooke (in occupation : Evelyn's visit).
 1659. William Smith and others.
 1662. William Hobson's sons-in-law : Sir William Bolton, Knight ;
 Patient Ward, Esquire ; William White, Esquire.
 1666. The Right Hon. Robert Lord Brooke (in occupation : Pepys'
 visit).
 1669. John Forsyth, Esquire.
 1676. Nicholas Carey and Thomas Cook.
 1677. Sir George Vyner.
 Sir Thomas Vyner.
 1694. John Sikes.
 1698. Francis Tyssen (by purchase)
 Francis John Tyssen.
 1724. Thomas Cook.
 1777. William Clark.
 1781. John Dent and others.
 1814. W. G. D. Tyssen.
 1811 } Mr. Holmes } Lysons.
 1816 } } Brewer's "Hist. of Middlesex."
 Dr. Munro.
 1868. Dr. Adams (the present holder of the lease and occupier).

CHAPTER II. BIOGRAPHICAL.

IT will be of interest to know something of the position and character of some of those to whom Brooke House has—at one time or another—belonged.

There are in the Cottonian MSS. in the British Museum, particulars of the possessions of the Templars in "*Hakeney*," dated 5 Edward III., 1332.* When the order was abolished, all their possessions in England near the Metropolis were granted to the Priory of St. John of Jerusalem at Clerkenwell; the whole brotherhood of which, though they disclaimed the military and political pursuits of their predecessors, continued their Ecclesiastical establishments, and even improved upon their system.† There is, as before stated, extant, the record of the grant of the manor of *Hackneis* (with other lands) to Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV. This grant is dated July 7th "In the seventh year of our reign." [1467].

Henry Algernon Percy, 6th Earl of Northumberland, to whom, Henry VIII. presented the manor, was eldest son of Henry Algernon the 5th Earl. He was born about 1502, and was sent when quite young to be a page in Wolsey's household. He was knighted in 1519, and, in spite of the fact that his father had destined him as early as 1516 for Mary Talbot, the daughter of the Earl of Shrewsbury, he fell in love with Anne Boleyn, then aged about 20, one of the maids of honour to Queen Catherine. The intrigue was soon discovered, & Wolsey, who knew by this time the King's inclinations, scolded the young man. Lord Percy gave way, but there is little doubt that the attachment lasted through his life. On the 19th May, 1527, he succeeded his father as 6th Earl of Northumberland, and in 1530 was employed in the arrest for high treason of his old employer Cardinal Wolsey. He had many misfortunes. He was constantly ill from a kind of ague, burdened with debt, and yet had to keep up a vast establishment, and engage in fighting on his own account. To add to his other distresses, he disagreed with his wife, who soon returned to her father, and hated her husband heartily for the rest of his short life. In 1532 Northumberland stood in great peril. His wife, drawing doubtless upon her recollection of matrimonial squabbles, accused him of a pre-contract with Anne Boleyn, confiding her alleged grievance to her father, who cautiously mentioned the matter to the Duke of Norfolk. Anne Boleyn herself ordered a public enquiry, Northumberland denied the accusation, and his accusers were routed.‡

* *Cott. MSS. Nero E. VI. p. 64.*

† *Robinson's Hackney.*

‡ *Dict. of Natl. Biog.*



Brooke House, from the North-east.

W. Hollar. 1642.



inscribed date.

*The South East View of Brook House
Published according to Act of Parliament Decr. 1750*

J. Roberts Sculp

Brooke House, from the South-east.

Chatelain. 1750.

When the jealous and inconstant Monarch's affection for Anne Boleyn (then his Queen) began to decline, this pre-contract was made the pretence for a divorce, and the King having procured the condemnation of the amiable but unfortunate Anne by adding insult to cruelty, he determined to give her fresh cause of mortification before she died. To this end a confession was extorted from her that the pre-contract before referred to existed between Lord Percy's father and herself on behalf of Lord Percy; but this was strongly denied by the Earl in a memorial, dated Newington Green, May 13, 1537, and written to Cromwell, Earl of Essex. In this letter he denied that he had been pre-contracted to her. There is little doubt of the Earl's veracity, for we are informed that the avowal was drawn from the Queen "by an intimation that the King would upon no other condition mitigate her cruel sentence of burning into the milder one of being beheaded."*

The following is a copy of the memorial above referred to:—

"Mr. Secretary, This shall be to signify unto you that I perceive by Sir Reynold Carnaby that there is supposed a precontract between the Queen and me: whereupon I was not only heretofore examined upon mine oath before the Archbishops of Canterbury & York, but also received the Blessed Sacrament upon the same before the Duke of Norfolk and others the Kings Highness Council learned in the Spiritual law assuring you, Mr. Secretary, by the said oath and Blessed Body which afore I received, and hereafter intend to receive that the same may be my damnation if ever there was any contract or promise of marriage between me and her. At Newington Green the 13th day of May in the 28th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry 8th.

Your assured

H. NORTHUMBERLAND."

Having no children, in 1535 he began to arrange his affairs. He wrote to Cromwell, Earl of Essex, that the king had given him leave to name any of his blood his heir, but on account of their "debylytery and unnaturalness" he had determined to make the king his heir; and this decision he confirmed later. In May 1536 he formed one of the Court for the trial of Anne Boleyn, but when he saw her, was overcome and retired.

* *MSS. Hist. Thomas.* [Mr. Thomas, however, is wrong when in his *MSS. History* he states that this letter was written by Lord Percy's father the 5th Earl, and suggests that the contract was supposed to have been between him and Anne Boleyn on behalf of his son: this is impossible as the 5th Earl died ten years before this date.]

By June 1537 his mind was fast failing. He removed to Newington Green, where, according to the Dictionary of National Biography, Richard Leighton visited him on June 29th 1537. He says that he found him "languens in extremis, sight and speech failed, his stomach swollen so great as I never see none, and his whole body as yellow as saffron." * The account of his funeral in the Herald's College says:—"Henry Earl of Northumberland died at his manor of *Hackney*, in the King's House, between 2 and 3 in the morning, on the 29th of June 1537, 29 Hen. 8." From this record it would certainly appear that the Earl breathed his last at Brooke House, and not at Newington Green. He was buried in Hackney Church (then known as St. Augustine's), and his funeral was attended by the four orders of friers, clerks, and "priests a great number." Divine service was performed by the Bishop of St. Asaph and the Abbot of Stratford. † Weever ‡ quotes the following inscription from his tomb:—

*"Here lieth interred
Henry Lord Percy, Earle of Northumberland
Knight of the Most Honorable Order of the Garter
who died in this Towne
the last of June 1537, the 29th of Henry 8."*

Dying without issue, and his brother having been attainted, the earldom became extinct, but was revived again in the person of his nephew, Thomas Percy, in 1557.

The Earl of Northumberland having in 1535 conveyed the manor to Sir Thomas Audley for the king's use, though he retained and resided in the manor house until his death, the manor seems to have remained vested in the Crown, being then known as Kingshold, until the first year of the reign of Edward VI., when the young king, following out the intention of his father, granted the manor to Sir William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke. This grant is dated July 10th 1547 [1 Edw. VI.] and records the "grant of the Manor of Brook or King's Place to Sir William Herbert, Knt., gent. of the Privy Chamber to K. Hen. VIII."

*Sir Wm.
Herbert,
Earl of
Pembroke*

With reference to this grant the Harleian MSS. record under date 28 Apl. 1 Edwd. VI. in an account "pro Willm. Herbert, Knt."

*"The Manore of Hackeney wth thappurtenaces
in ye Countie of Midd: pcell of ye Kinges Matie
purchasd land: above £ 10: 12. 11.
for the moyetie of the keepere of
the Manore and Bailifes fee
there by the yeare. cleere*

<i>li</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>d</i>
19	2	5

* *Dict. of Nat. Biog.*

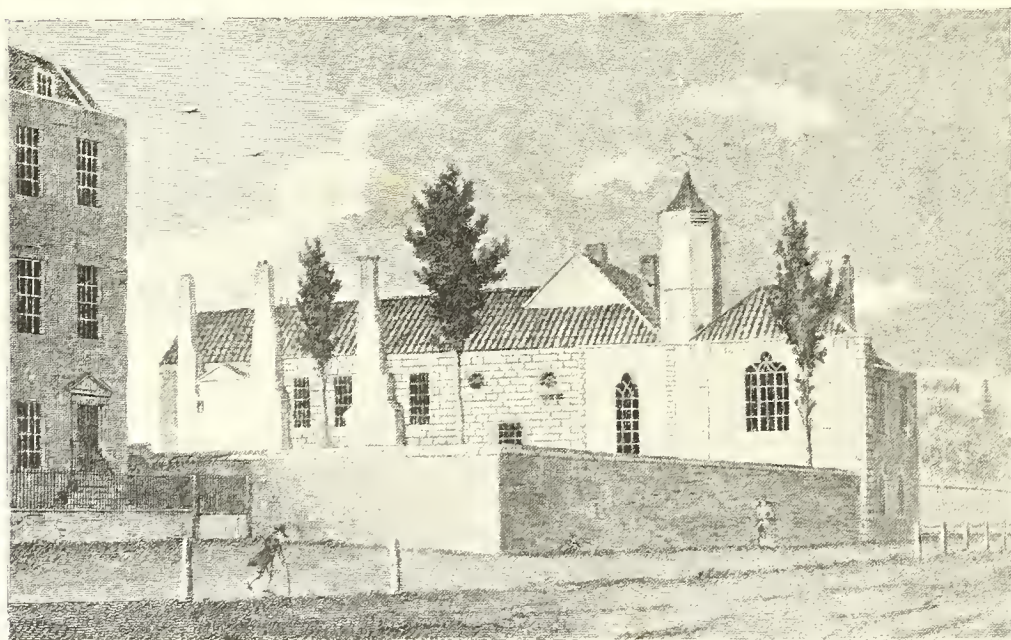
† *Lysons.*

‡ *Weever Fun. Mon.*



Brooke House, from the North-east.

*Photo by
A. P. Wire. 1904.*



Brooke House, from the South-east.

Malcolm. 1797.

Sir William, born 1501, was the first Earl of Pembroke of the second creation, and as a youth seems to have entered the service of his kinsman the Earl of Worcester, and soon attracted notice at Court. He became in 1526 a gentleman pensioner and esquire of the body of the king. He has been styled a "mad young fighting fellow," and it is related of him that on Midsummer day 1527 he took part in an affray at Bristol between some Welshmen and the watchman, and a few days later killed a mercer named Vaughan on account of a "want of some respect in compliment." Thereupon he is said to have fled to France, to have joined the French army, and to have distinguished himself so conspicuously by his courage and wit, that the French king wrote in his favour to Henry VIII. He returned home and married Ann, younger daughter of Sir Thomas Parr, and sister of Catherine Parr who became, on July 12th 1543, Henry VIII.'s sixth queen. Thenceforth Herbert's place in the royal favour was assured, and royal grants soon made him a man of fortune. He was knighted in 1543, was an executor of Henry VIII.'s will, and was nominated by the king as one of Edward VI.'s new Privy Council.*

His London residence was probably Baynard's Castle, which came to him through Henry VIII., with the Manor of Hendon, Midd. He died at Hampton Court on the 17th March 1569-70, and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral, on the north side of the choir.

In an account rendered by the King's Bailiffs "of all the lordships, manors, lands, & possessions, as well temporal as spiritual, whatsoever being in the hands of our Lord the King, as well by reason of the suppression and surrender of divers late monasteries, priories, and other religious houses, as by reason of exchange, purchase, and attainder," it is stated that this account is rendered because the said manor (of Hackney) with the appurtenances, is granted (among other things) to "the Most Noble Wm. Earl of Pembroke by the name of Sir William Herbert, Kt., and to his heirs for ever by the letters patent of our Lord King Edward VI. dated the 10th day of July in the 1st year of his reign To hold the same of our said Lord the King his heirs and successors *in capite* by the service of the twentieth part of a knight's ffee and at the yearly rent of 38s. 3d. to be paid yearly."

Sir Ralph Sadler, [Sadleyer or Sadleir] who purchased the manor from the Earl of Pembroke, was born in Hackney in 1507, and was descended from an ancient family seated at Hackney. He was the eldest son of Henry Sadleir, received a good education, and entered at an early age the family of Thomas Cromwell, afterwards Earl of Essex, whose increasing favour with King Henry VIII. proved highly beneficial to his ward's fortunes.†

* *Dict of Nat. Biog.*

† *Ibid.*

He married Margaret Mitchell, a laundress to the Earl's family, in the lifetime, though absence, of her husband—Matthew Barr, a tradesman, presumed to be dead at that time—and he procured an Act of Parliament (37 Hen. 8) for the legitimation of the children by her.

Being Secretary to the Earl of Essex he wrote many things treating of State affairs, & by that means became known to the “Bluff Harry,” who took him from his master in the 26th year of his reign, and appointed him Master of the Great Wardrobe. This was a happy circumstance for him, as it relieved him from the danger of falling with his noble patron. In the 30th year of his reign Mr. Ralph Sadleir was sworn of His Majesty's Privy Council, and appointed one of the principal Secretaries of State. The King appointed him by his will as one of the Vice-Regents of the kingdom during the minority of his son Edward VI., and he bequeathed to him £200 as a legacy. He acquired also (32nd Henry VIII.) by grant from the King, the Manor of Bromley, together with the church and the suppressed monastery.* In the first year of Edward VI. Sir Ralph was appointed Treasurer for the Army. He was present at the battle of Musselburgh in Scotland—10th September 1547—and when the English were almost routed, rallied our scattered troops, and invited them to fight by his example. For this his General created him a Knight-Banneret, and the King of Scots' standard which he took in that battle, stood afterwards by his monument in the Church of Standon, Herts. The pole only is said to be now left, about 20 feet high, of fir, encircled with a thin plate of iron from the bottom above the reach of a horseman's sword.

In the time of Queen Mary he resigned and lived privately at Standon. He was a Privy Counsellor to Queen Elizabeth in the first year of her reign, and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in the tenth, which he held till his death on 30th March, 1587, in the 80th year of his age.

Sadleir is described as a most exquisite writer and a most valiant and experienced soldier—qualifications that seldom meet. “He was small in stature, but tall in performances; little was his body, but great his soul.”

He was accounted at one time the richest commoner of England, & the great estate which he got honestly, he spent nobly.†

He was a great promoter of the glorious Reformation; and he left—besides a good estate to his family—a pardon gained of the Pope by his servant, when he was at Rome with his master Cromwell, for his own and successors' sins for three generations; but he was too wise to make any other use of it than to be merry.‡

* See *Vol. I. Register of Comm. Survey of London*, page 11.

† *Fuller*.

‡ *Magna Brittannia. Middx. Lond.* 1724.

He is buried under a splendid monument with recumbent effigy in Standon Church.

His descendant, Sir Edwin Sadleir, was made a Baronet in 1661. The title is now extinct.

Of the earlier members of the family of Carew, the next holders of the *The Carews* manor, full accounts are not forthcoming.

An extract from the originalia of the Exchequer MSS. in the British Museum shows the following :—

2 *Edwd. 6* } *D. homagio Wim. de Carewe mit p dmo & Manio de*
Middx. } *Hackney cu ptn p licene inde fact.*

3 *Edwd. 6* } *Thome Carew ar fil e hered Wimonde Carewe mit defunct.*
Hert. } *Wimond tenuit de Rige in Capite.*
Middx. }

20 *Eliz.* } *Rd licen dedit Rico Carewe ar alien maniu de Hackney c*
Middx. } *at tr Henrico Carey Mit Dno Hunsdon c hered suis.*

From these records it is evident that Sir Wymond Carewe died seized of the manor, anno 1549, leaving Thomas his son and heir æt. 22. Thomas Carew died anno 1564, leaving Richard his son and heir æt. 17.* In 1578 we find the manor alienated to Sir Henry Carey, first Lord Hunsdon.

Sir Henry Carey is perhaps the most interesting character of all those *Lord* who claimed at one time or another the proprietorship of the manor & *Hunsdon* its manor house. Born about 1524, he was the only son of William Carey, “penniless but nobly born,” esquire of the body of Henry VIII., by his wife Mary, sister of Anne Boleyn. Through his mother he was first cousin to Queen Elizabeth, by whom he was knighted soon after her accession, and was created Baron Hunsdon on January 13, 1558-9.

He has been described as “very choleric but not malicious,” and it was merrily said by Sir Robert Naunton in his “Fragmenta Regalia” that his “Latine and his dissimulation were both alike, and that his custom in swearing and obscenity in speech made him seem a worse Christian than he was, and a better knight of the carpet than he could be.” “He might have been with the Queen whatsoever he *would* himself; but *would* be no more than what he was, preferring *enough* above a *feast* in that interest.” “He hung at Court on no man’s sleeve but stood on his own botome till the time of his death, having a competent estate of his own, given him by the Queen.”

* *Harl. MSS., No. 160.*

Three times he was in election to be Earl of Wiltshire, but some intervening accident retarded it. When he lay on his death-bed the queen gave him a *gracious visit*. Causing his patent for the said earldom to be drawn, his robes to be made, & both to be laid down upon his bed, "this lord" (who could dissemble neither well nor sick), "Madam," said he, "seeing you counted me not worthy of this honour whilst I was living, I count myself unworthy of it now I am dying."

Hunsdon died 23rd July 1596 at Somerset House, the use of which the queen had granted him; and, as Fuller reports, "of disappointment." He was buried at Westminster Abbey, on the site of the altar in the chapel of St. John the Baptist, on 12th August, at the queen's expense; and a magnificent and stately monument of alabaster and marble was erected to his memory by his son, Sir George Carey, who succeeded to the title.

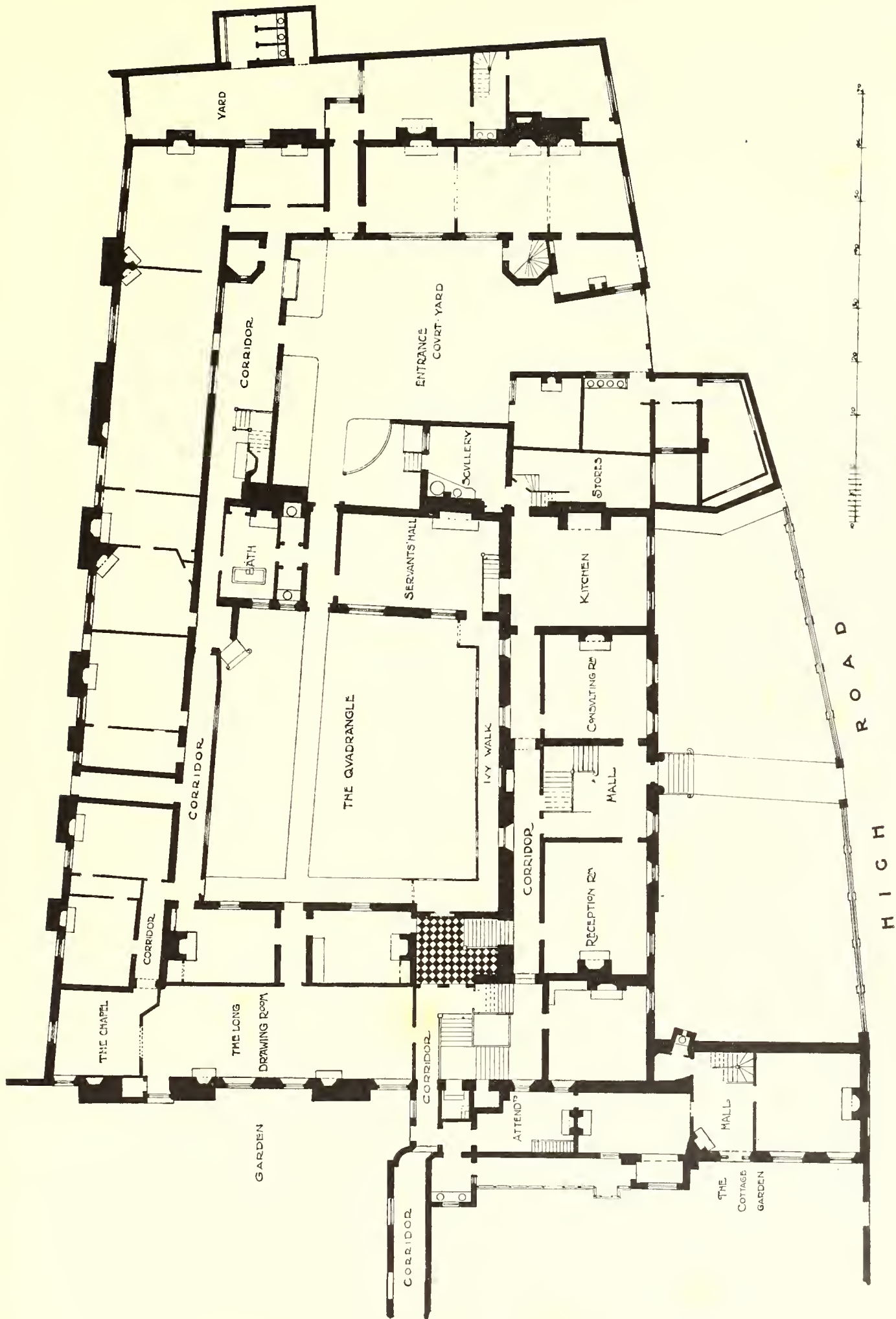
Hunsdon was Lord of the Manor from 1578 to 1583, and it was during his tenure that the manor house was so considerably altered, his work surviving to the present day; though, unfortunately, the exigencies of modern occupancy have destroyed at least the character of the old gallery.

In the British Museum is a copy of "Froissart's Chronicles" at one time in the possession of Lord Hunsdon, and upon the flyleaves is a record, in his own handwriting, of the births of his children. "It is characteristic of Lord Hunsdon," says Sir Robert Naunton, "to have entered these family notes—which are usually made in a Bible—in such a book as "Froissart," a work that doubtless he had read through a hundred times. He was one who "lived in a ruffling time, and loved sword-and-buckler men." Possibly Froissart was his text book.

*The
Countess
of Lennox*

It would appear from contemporary records that shortly before Lord Hunsdon's occupation of Brooke House, the queen had permitted the tenancy of Margaret Douglas, Countess of Lennox, daughter of Queen Margaret Tudor, a god-child of Cardinal Wolsey and grandmother of King James I.; and it is said that she removed here from Barber's Barn, an ancient house in another part of Hackney. This was a small favour, considering the near connection between these two ladies—and one that was soon to be cancelled by death, for on March 7, 1577-8 the questionable Earl of Leicester called upon, and, after long private conversation dined with her. On his departure the Countess was seized with sudden illness, and expired shortly after, popular report judging the earl as guilty of her death.* She was at first interred in Hackney Church, but James I. on his accession removed her body, and his mother's, to Westminster—where both lie under marble altar tombs in Henry VII.'s chapel.

* *Simpson's 'Hackney.'*



Brooke House, Ground Floor Plan.

Holinshed records: "The Ladie Margaret Countesse of Lennox deceased on the 10th March at hir house in the parish of Hackneie besides London."

In 1586 Lord Hunsdon conveyed the house by sale to Sir Rowland Hayward, as appears by an entry in the "Originalia of the Exchequer": *Sir Rowland Hayward*

Middx. 25 Eliz: Ru licen dedit Henrico Carey milit dno Hunsdon alien maneria de Hackney cuptin in com pdco Rowlando Hayward et hered suis.

In 1563 he was Sheriff of the City of London; in 1570—as Sir Rowland Heyward, Clothworker—he was Mayor; and in 1590, Mayor for part of the year.

Queen Elizabeth held her Court at Hackney about 1587, and stayed in Sir Rowland Hayward's House—i.e., Brooke House (King's Hold).*

We find by the Churchwarden's Accompts of St. Margaret, Westminster, that their bells were rung on the 28th May, 1590, "when her Majesty removed from Hackney, to my Chancellor Sir Chris: Hatton at his then newly-erected mansion."

After Sir Rowland's tenure ceased, the house was for a period occupied successively by two widowed ladies—the Lady Katherine Vaux, & the Lady Elizabeth, Countess Dowager of Oxenford. *Lady Katherine Vaux*

The Lady Vaux was a pronounced adherent of the Roman Catholic party, and gave much of her time & wealth to the fostering of the tenets of that faith. She was a devoted friend to the priesthood and provided shelter for many a hunted "father" in one or other of her houses. Of the "priest's hole" at Brooke House we have already written.

The Rt. Hon. the Countess Elizabeth of Oxford was the daughter of James Trentham, of Rowcester, Staffs., and at one time was maid of honour to Queen Elizabeth. She was second wife to Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxenford, who was buried at Hackney the 6th of July 1604. *The Countess of Oxford*

The Countess became tenant of the mansion (according to *Thomas*) in 1596, and retained it till 1609, when she alienated it to Fulke Greville, Lord Brooke.

In a table of those living at Clapton in 1605, this lady is noted as residing at Brooke House. She was buried in Hackney Church Dec. 3, 1612.†

It was during the occupancy of the Countess of Oxford, or shortly after when it again became vested in the Crown (temp. James I.)‡ that an inventory of the goods in the house was prepared.§ It is now in the British

* *Simpson's Mem. of St. John at Hackney.*

† *Weever says Jan. 3, 1612-13.*

§ *Ayscough's Catalogue No. 103, Sloan Roll XXX. 1.*

‡ *Lysons.*

Museum, and is a curious document, worthy of reproduction as indicating very precisely the apartments then existing and their contents :—

No. 1.

*The
Inventory*

In the litle Parlor. Item.—A story of the Rich Man and Death, a little cubberd by the chimney wth locke and key, a locke to the parlor dore, noe key.

In the great Parlor. Item.—Hanginge of blewe and yellow seige, a side cubberd, a picture hanging over the same wth an iron rodde for a curtayne, a story of Mounte Syon in a byble, one other table wth a story of Moyses and Aaron.

In the Bisttery. Item.—One cubberd wth three pticons & twoe locke and noe key, one little hinge.

In the Hall. Item.—Slayne clothes, a picture of Adam and Eve, a picture of Fame and Tyme, a waynscott cubberd, with inner cubberds, twoe lockes and one key, and a table uppon a frame, with one forme, and twoe benches.

In the Kitchen. Item.—A beame of iron in the chimney, with the supporters.

In the Lardery. Item.—One cubbord, one hanging shelve, one iron hooke.

In the Styll House. Item.—One iron chest.

In my La. Chamber. Item.—Paynted cloohes, a yellow cubbord.

In the Little Chamber. Paynted clothes, a troundle bedd, a cubbord locke and keye.

No. 2.

In the Presse Chamber. Item.—A clere story glazed with two casements and iron barres, a newe presse with three romes, and a little presse, with four bolts to them, and a locke, a presse of waynscot ij romes, and ij cobberdes, ij lockes, j key.

In the Study in the great Chamber. Item.—A dore with lock and key, a bench and a shelve, the study cealed with deale, two windows of lights, and two casements, newe glazed, and iron barres.

In the Wash-house. Item.—An oven in the chimney, a great iron barre.

In the Chamber over it Item.—A bedstede, the windowes unglazed, two wodden windowes to shutt, two dores, to the great dore a lock and a key, and two great bolts and a chayne, a bolte to the other dore, a dore to the chamber with lock and key, a window glazed, and a great casement.

In the Wash-yarde. Item.—One great cesterne of leade, and a cock to serve them. Item.—*In the ffield*, a cesterne of leade sette in stone, to water horse att, with cock and pipe thereto. It'm.—In the gardeyn, a cesterne

of leade with pipe and cock thereto. Item.—A cesterne of leade in the orchard, with pipe and cock thereto.

In the Stable. Item.—A dore with a chayne and lock ; there are xij barres of iron to the wyndowes, the stable planked, and a rack and manger, and a rack to hang bridles on ; a provinder bin.

In the Hen-house. Item.—A coope, a dore with a haspe.

In the Olde Storehouse. Item.—A dore with lock and key and haspe, a dore in the cole-house.

In the greate Corne Loft. Item.—A dore with a haspe, a joynd windowe glased, lacking a casement, a lattis windowe with iron lattis, a casement nere the dore, a shelf of deal borde.

In the next Lofte. Item.—A dore with lock and key, a dore to the office-house, wherein is slate, a windowe with iron lattis, a drawe windowe thereto.

In the Men's Chamber. Item.—A wyndowe glased of ffyve lights, another wyndowe with shuttings, a dore and lock and key, a bedstead with a
and an old chest.

In the next Chamber. Item.—A wyndowe of vij lights, and a casement wanting.

In the Well-yarde. Item.—A pumpe of elme, and sesterne of lead. To the *Milke-house*, a dore, locke, and ij keyes. To the *Wood-barne*, a dore with lock and key.

No. 3.

In the Stairecase. Item.—In the stairecase there is three clere stories of ten lights, two casements newlie glased, and all with iron barres, a casement.

In my Ladies Chamber. Item.—A transomed window of twelve lights, with two casements newe glased, and with iron barres, a dore with locke and key, and two boltes and a latch, a dore with a bolte to the Mayd' Chamber.

In the Study. Item.—A dore to the Study with lock and key, and in the Study a presse, a shelf, and a wyndowe glased of fyve lights & iron barres, one casement.

In the Maydes Chamber. Item.—A transomed wyndowe newe glased of ten lights, without barres, no casement, a drawe wyndow.

In the Entry to the Office-house. Item.—There is a . . . wyndowe of six lights, and one casement, five barres of iron, & in the house a casement, and to it a dore with a bolte.

In Rowland Beresfourd Chamber. Item.—Two faire wyndowes of viij lights, a peece besides thereto newlie glased with two casements and barres of iron with curtayn rodde, a portall of waynscott and three cubberd dores without locks and keyes, to the portall a latche, one dore of

deal borde with the flower of the same, one bolte to the dore, no locke but a ring, a dore to the Study in that chamber with a very good lock and key, in that Study a clere story of two lights, with one casement & iron barres and two shelves.

In Mrs. Norris, her Chamber. Item.—Two transomed wyndowes of viij lights a peece to each of them, two great casements all barred with iron . . . lights, the wyndowe peeces of newe waynscot, and the portall with a peece of waynscot betwene the portall and wyndowe, to the portall there is two dores, and to them two latches a story of the vj maide.

In the entry to the Great Chamber. Item.—A fayre transomed wyndowe of ffourtene lights, one casement and iron barres, two clere stories both of twelve lights, two dores with two locks, and one key to open both.

In the Great Chamber. Item.—The same chamber waynscotted, a portall with two waynscot dores and fyve other waynscot dores to it, to those dores foure latches, no locks nor keyes, a . . . coberte and one bolte, a dore with lock and key, to the stareshed, two transomed wyndowes of tenn lights a-piece, three casements and twoe ende lights in the study, within it a dore, locke, and key, the study waynscotted with deal, & two wyndowes glased, with xij lights, ij casements, iron bars, a tabell with frame, and iij . . .

In the foure upper Lofts of the newe frame. Item.—One dore for the one, of thick elme, nayled, with a locke and key and a bolte, a dore to the next lofte, of deale, a bolte without a locke; an old dore to the inner lofte, with a lock & bolte; to these four lofts there are seaven transomed wyndowes of eight lights a-peece, to every wyndowe a casement, and all wodden barres. It'm.—In the study loft two shelves, and in the . . . lofte a tabell and two tresseles.

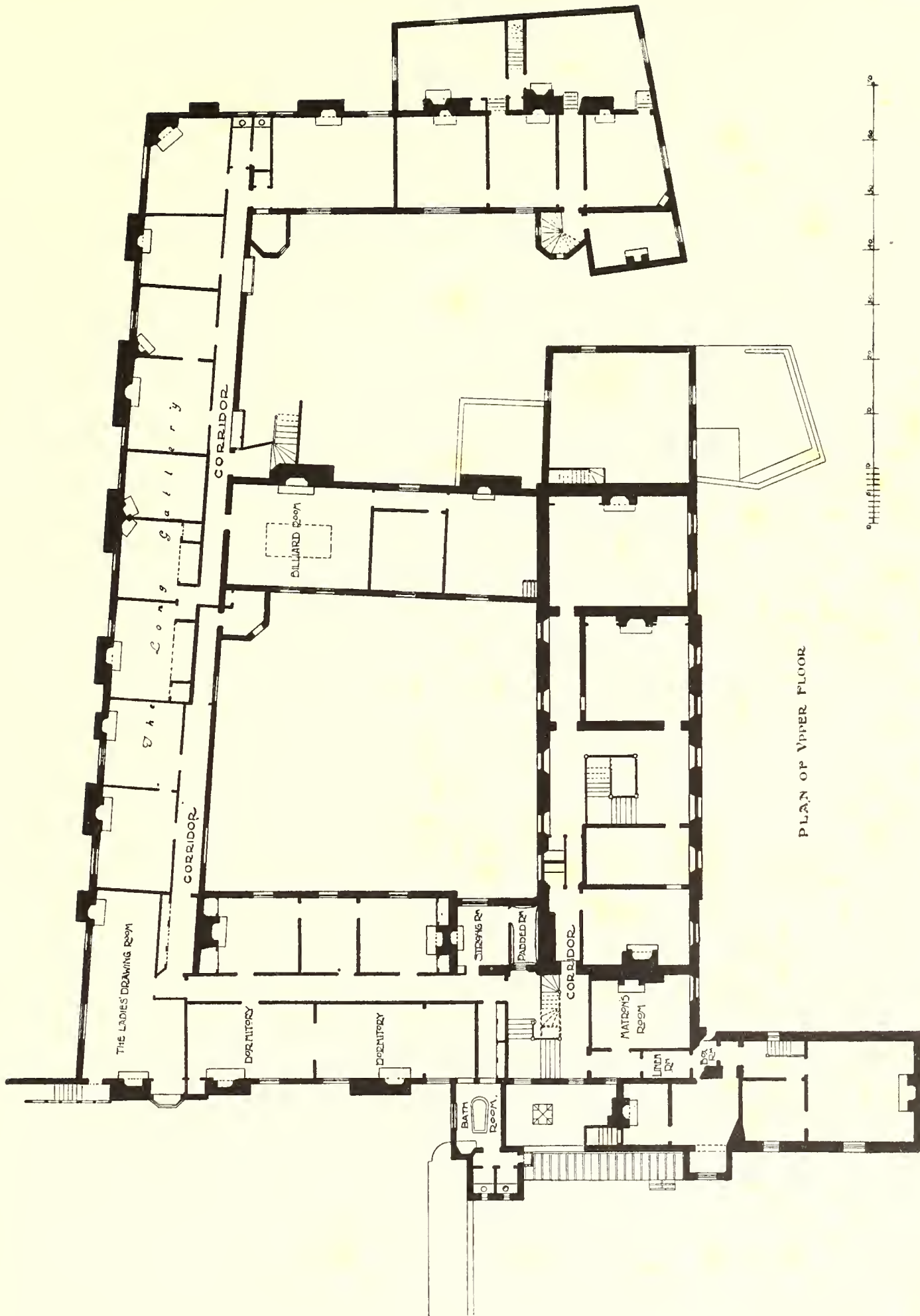
In the little Chamber. Item.—Two wyndowess of vij lights, well glased, with iron barres and two casements, two dores, one bolte, two locks, and one key.

*Sir Fulke
Greville,
Lord Brooke*

Three years before the Countess of Oxford's death she alienated the Manor House to Fulke Greville, 1st Lord Brooke. It has been stated that it was this nobleman who first gave the title of Brooke House to the mansion, but from the Hackney records previously referred to, this would appear to be incorrect. It is a fact also that he was not the first Brooke to occupy the mansion, and it is quite likely to have received its designation from Sir William Brooke, Lord Cobham, as during the tenure of the Carews it is probable that Sir William was in occupation, the Hackney registers recording the birth of a daughter, June 2, 1563. Sir Fulke was the only son of Sir Fulke Greville, of Beauchamp Court, Warwickshire.*

*Sir Willm.
Brooke,
Lord
Cobham*

* *Dict. of Natl. Biog.*



Brooke House, First Floor Plan.

Brooke House next served as a residence for the Right Hon. Robert, second Lord Brooke, but for how long is not known.

The Hackney Vestry minutes record that :

“ In conformitie to the Instrumt. of the ninth day of Decembr. 1613, from the Bishp. of this dyosses aforesaid, have made choyce accordyngly of the Most Emynent, ablest, Antiant of the said parish, for the supply of Vestry Men whose Names are heare Under witten.

The Ryght honble. Robart Lord Brooke, Baron, of Brooke Cort,” &c.

This is the only instance where we have noted the term “Court” applied to the manor-house.

On the death of this Lord Brooke the house came into the possession of his son the Rt. Hon. Robert ; and the local Church-records show that—with his wife Dame Anne—he was residing in the mansion in the years 1664-5.

Lord Brooke left no male issue at his death, which happened in 1676.*

Of William Hobson, who next held the proprietorship, we have no knowledge beyond the fact that the mansion was, by his sons-in-law as trustees, alienated to the Rt. Hon. Sir George Vyner, Kt. and Bart. *William Hobson*

The Communion plate of St. John’s Church dates from 1662 to 1689, and amongst this were two silver flagons “ex dono Sir G. Vyner” without date, but probably about 1672.†

The Tyssens—subsequent owners—were formerly merchants at Flushing, and settled in London about the time of James II. Francis Tyssen lived at Shacklewell and purchased the manor in 1698. He died in 1717 and was buried at Hackney. *Francis Tyssen*

His posthumous heir, Francis John Tyssen, Lord of the Manor of Hackney, died in 1781, leaving a daughter, who subsequently conveyed the property by marriage to the Amhursts of Rochester. *Francis John Tyssen*

At the beginning of the last century the property passed—through failure of male heirs and by marriage of an heiress—to Mr. William George Daniel of Foley House, Kent, who thereupon assumed, by royal assent, the surname and arms of Tyssen. His eldest son, who inherited the manor, took the additional name of Amhurst.

* *Lysons.*

† *Simpson’s Notes on St. John at Hackney.*

CHAPTER III. DESCRIPTIVE.

The Front of Brooke House

FROM the Clapton High Road one is neither attracted nor impressed with the comparatively modern front, which gives no sign of the dignity and antiquity of which it is the screen. This front, of quiet but characteristic design, built perhaps 130 years ago, was the last of several considerable alterations, and replaced what was existing at the time of Hollar's drawing dated 1642, and Chatelain's of 1750. (Plates 1 & 2.) It will be seen by comparison that this re-fronting entirely destroyed all vestige of the arrangement then existing with regard to the front portion of the premises, with the exception of the two-storied wing at the south end, which still exists and is now known as "the cottage." Both Hollar's and Chatelain's drawings show an arched entrance of considerable height, which doubtless gave sufficient access for equestrians to the courtyards in the rear, while for those who came on foot a central portico entrance was available. Near to and southward of this last, was an octagonal turret three or four storeys high; and a similar turret, some remains of which may still be found, was attached to the cottage before mentioned. Exception has before now been taken to Hollar's want of accuracy in many of his drawings, but when one compares the position of the southern turret in the three drawings we reproduce which show it, Hollar will not, in our view, be without company in this condemnation.

There is little doubt, too, that the earlier rear structure bore little resemblance either in plan or elevation to the present. Lord Hunsdon, with the usual desire of a courtier to compliment his queen, when making his alterations brought the mansion into the shape of an E, the open side of the letter fronting to the high road; a later owner closing up the open side by adding the front building, extending from the central to the southern wing. Portions of the original foundations of this later front structure are still to be seen, and, indeed, form the base of the walls to the present front.

The Basement

The basement of the earlier front building appears in a measure to have been utilised to erect the later and existing front buildings upon, and though the bricks are not of the best, the solidity of the structure evidently appealed to the later builders as a means of economising. The front wall rises from the basement level with six flush courses, above which are five sets-off, & on these a wall 2 ft. 6 in. thick. It is noticeable also that considerable alterations must have occurred in the ground level in the course of years, the various alterations having been adapted each to the other. The level of the original front entrance above referred to, and which is now known as the "marble hall," is some 5 ft. 6 in. below the ground floor of the modern front building; and the old front door-

way to the marble hall, still existing, now leads—or would do if it were not sealed—to the basement of the front portion. Near this are some of the old oak timbers used in the construction of the previous building. The basement extends the full length of the front building, and at the northern end consists of vaulting below the old kitchen, and is paved with old red bricks and stone flagging.

A systematic inspection is made comparatively easy, and what, to a stranger, is a maze of odd corners, corridors, & staircases, becomes, under the sympathetic guidance of the matron, a deeply interesting study.

The careful unlocking of the front door precedes one's entrance to the hall, open for the height of two storeys. On the left is the drawing-room, in which a marble chimney-piece of good modern design is alone noticeable for our present purpose. From this we go direct to a corridor extending the whole length of the front building, but which, together with the various rooms entered from the same, is jealously kept locked against the intrusion of patients from the rear portion. At the southern end is the principal staircase, the width of which ranges from 6 ft. to 9 ft. round a central well, with oak treads, carved ballusters, and heavy square newels surmounted by ball heads. Heavy beams carry the landings. This staircase starts, as has already been stated, 5 ft. 6 in. below the main ground floor level, and above the first floor becomes much narrower and the ceiling lower as it winds up to the domestics' dormitory on the upper floor of the front building.

*The
Entrance*

*The Main
Staircase*

At dado-height is an incised moulding of intersecting circles and quadrants, very similar in character to that in the staircase of the Strangers' Hall at Ipswich, added to the building in 1627. A modern replica of this moulding has been fixed in the corridor at the side of the quadrangle.

Ascending the main staircase, at the level of the first corridor we enter "the cottage," which, with the servants' hall at the opposite end of the building, are undoubtedly the earliest portions of the structure.

On the upper landing there still exists, close up to the back wall of "the cottage," one of the small circular windows which appear on the print by Malcolm dated 1797; and from the lower half-landing between the two ground floor levels, a small lobby, now enclosed, originally led by stone steps (still in position) to the side garden. These steps with the doorway are shown in the reproduction of Burlison's drawing, dated 1842. (Plate 5.)*

At the foot of the stairs the marble hall (so called because of the black-and-white quarries of marble with which it is paved) is divided from the main staircase by glazed doors; and with a width of 6 ft. 4 in. the

* One of the landings below window is partly constructed of a solid baulk of rough-hewn elm.

stairs rise ten steps up to the level of the first corridor. The old partition which formerly separated the main staircase from the women's quarters was removed many years ago, and is said by the steward, who well remembers the alteration, to have been composed of clay and straw, a common composition for internal partitions in the days of Elizabeth.*

Behind and partly below the stairs is a small, low-ceiled room used as a kitchen, with a borrowed light originally looking out to the cottage garden. The floor is believed to be at the old ground level.

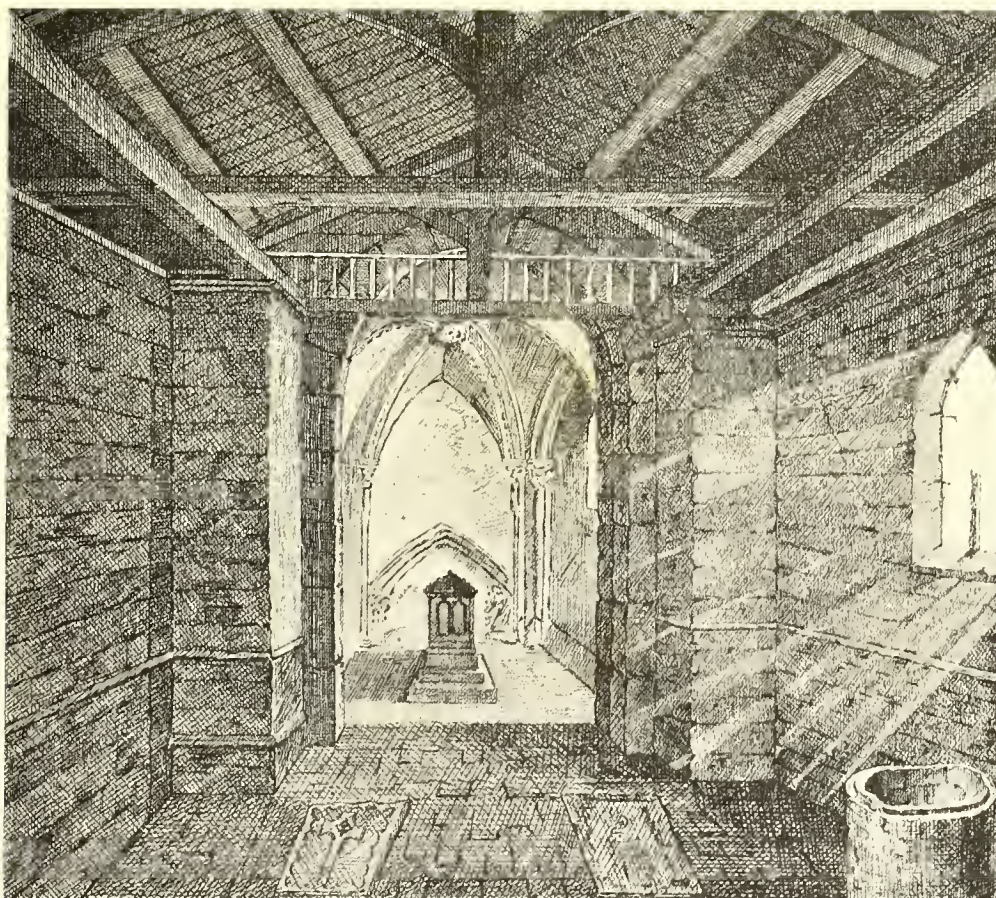
From the foot of the stairs we enter what is now known as the "ladies' drawing-room," a long apartment (originally four separate rooms, as shown on ground plan), with panelled ceiling divided in the centre by an arched rib springing from a plain square pilaster on each side. At the far end a cupboard has been formed in the thickness of the wall.

The Chapel Beyond this, & entered by folding doors, is a small room used as a chapel; and an attempt has been made, with some success, to impart an ecclesiastical atmosphere. This was an arrangement by Dr. Adams some thirty years ago, and here daily services are held, led at times by the Rector of the parish.

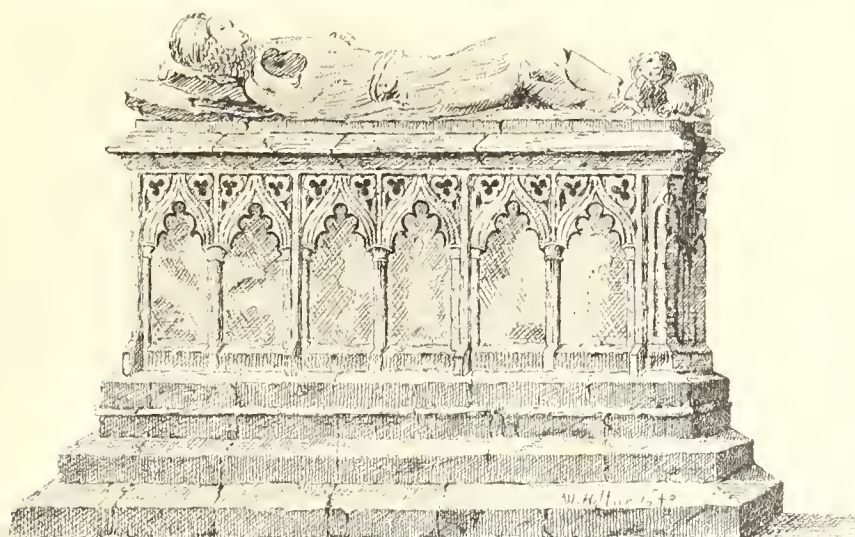
We are more interested, however, in the legends and history of the *old* chapel. The exact position is now a matter of conjecture only; but, in addition to that suggested later, a room likely to answer to its position is one with a coved and ribbed ceiling, above that which is now used as a chapel. On Plate 6 will be found a reproduction of Hollar's drawing of "ye old chappel of ye Elryngtons at ye Brooke House in Clapton," with the tomb of Ralph de Elryngton. This shows an ante-chamber with an open timber roof, and in the floor two sepulchral tablets; and beyond, a more ornate, unmistakeably gothic, chamber with a groined ceiling, & clustered columns with caps and bases, generally of the fourteenth century or "Decorated" period. The central boss to the groining shows a carved grotesque; immediately below is the tomb of the same period. The recumbent figure would certainly suggest that in life De Elryngton was a member of the fraternity of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, who were in possession of the manor house from the time of Edward III. until the dissolution by Henry VIII. Hollar's note referring to the marriage of the "last" of the Elryngtons in 1465 must have referred to this particular branch, as the family connection with Hackney continues long after this date. Records are extant of many of its members.

The family of Elryngton (often spelled Ellerington, Etherington, or Elderton) is not, so far as we know, traceable in Hackney before the be-

* *Alluding to the clay or "cob" walls then still used in the west of England, Holinshead wrote that the Spaniards were especially surprised at the excellent housekeeping which they found within walls of "sticks and dirt."*



*The old Chapel of the Elryngtons at the Brooke House
in London sheweth the ruined Tomb of
Ralph de Elryngton*



*The last of the Elryngtons became the wife of one of the
Goff family in the year 1465*

*Interior of Chapel, Brooke House,
with tomb of Ralph de Elryngton.*

W. Hollar. 1642.

ginning of the fifteenth century; but Hollar's etching goes to prove that some time before that date Ralph de Elryngton was either lessee of Brooke House under the Knights Hospitallers, or of eminent rank in that Order. The small size of the chapel shown seems to favour the former supposition, while the latter would fully account for the facts as we find them; for nothing is more likely, or more in accordance with history, than that a warrior-monk, denied the opportunity of transmitting to his own posterity the fruits of his stout lance & sword, should use his power to further the worldly advancement of a brother or a nephew, either by profitable leases of land, or by promoting a match with some rich heir-ess. In this way the family may have been transplanted quite suddenly from any part of the country & firmly established in Hackney, or rather near it, for apart from Sir Ralph we cannot trace the family quite so early in Hackney as in Hoxton, which was the family burial-place.

*The
Elryngton
Family*

In a Hexham deed of the time of King John we find mention of Adam de Elrington, and soon after that date in a Featherstonhaugh deed, Ranulph of Elrington. There were William de Elrington (temp. Edward I.), Hugh of Elrington (1336), Robert de Elrington, Esquire (1441), John Elrington, Esquire (1454), Simon Elrington (1568), & others, of whom a fairly complete pedigree for a century and a half could be made out. The names Ralph, Simon, John, Robert, Rowland, & Francis, remind us at once of the Hackney family, whose coats of arms bearing the well known "storks and fess *dancette*" of the southern branch of the family, are not, however, identical with those of the northern, which always bore "three water bougets."

In the Hackney Collection Portfolios appears an illustration of the tomb of Sir John Elrington, 1481, on the north side of the altar in St. Leonard's Church, Shoreditch, 1735, his wife by his side.

No trace of this is now to be seen at St. Leonard's, and Hughson in his "London," published 1807, states of this Church, that "there are no monuments of peculiar notice." It was therefore probably removed at the time of the rebuilding, 1735.

During the latter years of Elizabeth's, or the earlier years of James I.'s, reign, when Brooke House was in the possession of the Vaux family—of whom we shall have more to say hereafter—the chapel was evidently the scene at times of considerable excitement.

Mr. Allan Fea in "Secret Hiding Places," (Chap. III.) states that: "At Hackney the Vaux family had another residence with its chapel and 'priest's hole,' the latter having a masked entrance high up in the wall, which led to a space under a gable projection of the roof. For double security this contained yet an inner hiding place. In the existing Brooke House are incorporated the modernised remains of this mansion."

*The 'priest's
hole' in the
Chapel.*

No knowledge of the "masked entrance" however now remains, & the

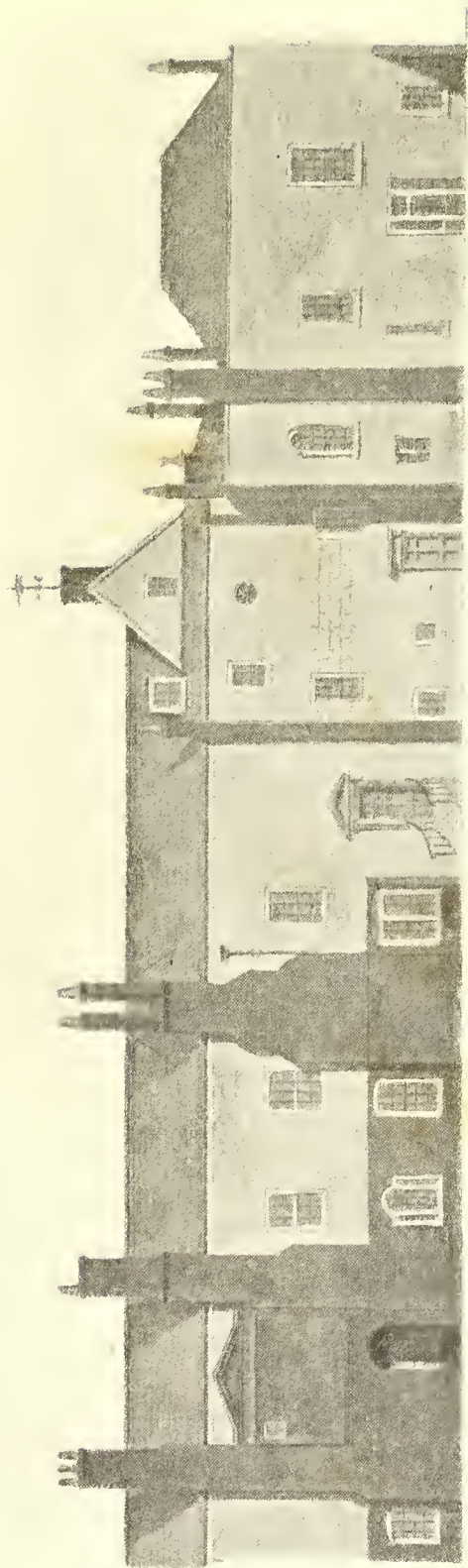
“priest’s hole” probably disappeared in the various alterations which have been made in the buildings. Unaccounted-for places such as these, when detected, are readily utilised. Passages are run through the heart of many a secret device with little veneration for the mechanical ingenuity—begotten of a terror of the scaffold or the stake—that has been displayed in their construction. The modern builder, as a rule, knows but little of, and cares less for, such contrivances, and they are swept away without a thought.

The following Confession of Ralph Myller, a prisoner in Bridewell (9 Oct. 1584) gives us an insight into the late Lord Vaux’s London house : “This examinant did afterwards meet one Robert Browne, who hath an uncle, a priest with the Lord Vaux, who is a little man with white heade, and a little browne heare on his face ; goeth in an ash-colour doblet coat and a gowne faced with conye, and he was made prieste long sithens at Cambray as this examinant thinketh. This examinant spoke with the Lord Vaux and his Lady at *Hackney*, after that his sonne Mr. George and the said Robert Browne had told him that this examinant was a taylor at Rheyms, and on Sonday was fortnight this examinant did hear Masse, whereat were present about XVIII persons, being my lord’s householde, and the Priest last before named said the Mass. The said Priest lieth in a chamber beyonde the hall on the leftehande the stayre that leadeth to the chambers, & the Mass is said in the chappel beinge righte on the porte entringe into the hall ; and the way into it is up the staire aforesaid on the left hand at the further end of the gallery : and there is a very faire crucifixe of sylver.” (P.R.O. Dom. Eliz. Vol. 173. n. 64).

The topography of the chapel as given in this last note is not of the clearest, and coincides with one of the suggested positions only in the statement that it was at the further end of the gallery ; but, if one couples the description in the confession before related, that the chapel was “over the porte entring into the hall” with that of the hiding place “in the space under a gable projection of the roof,” one would have ground for believing that the upper floor of “the cottage” is the site of the old “chappel” ; and the three-light window as shown on Malcolm’s drawing would strengthen this supposition, especially as the gable with roof space below is conveniently adjacent ; and this is not, we think, necessarily negatived because the earlier drawing does not so clearly show this arrangement, as the appearance of this cottage-front was considerably altered between the dates of the two drawings.

Father Gerard further states that, “Besides others of less standing whom she* brought me to be reconciled, she had nearly won over a certain

* *Lady Vaux.*



Elevation of South side of Brooke House.

J. Burlison. 1842.



Elevation of West, or Garden, side of Brooke House.

J. Burlison. 1842.

great lady,* a neighbour of hers. Tho' this lady was the wife of the richest lord in the whole county & sister to the Earl of Essex (then most powerful with the Queen) and was wholly given to vanities, nevertheless she brought her so far as to be quite willing to speak with a priest if only he could come to her without being known. This the good widow told me. I consequently went to her house openly and addressed her as tho' I had something to tell her from a certain great lady her kinswoman, for so it had been agreed. I dined openly with her & all the gentry in the house and spent three hours at least in private talk with her."† (circa 1594.)

It is noteworthy that religious services of a very different character from those above alluded to, were a century and a half later held under the same roof. In Robert Seymour's "Survey," published 1734, occurs the following in the reference to Hackney: "The remarkable places and things are, three dissenting Meeting houses, one of which is lately set up in Brooke house."

Through what appears to be a cupboard, but is in reality a doorway, in the corner of the present chapel, carefully locked after our egress, we enter the corridor, commanding a good view of the quadrangle prettily arranged with flowers and shrubs. Here we note, at the side of the chapel, a bedroom fitted as a strong room for refractory patients, and opposite to this and adjoining the "ladies' drawing-room" is a sitting-room, a feature of which are the curious high cupboard fronts which have been formed to fill in what at one time were arched openings to the adjacent apartments, and the whole of which fronts—including architraves, dados, and skirtings—open as doors.

Beyond is a passage way from the courtyard to the ladies' drawing-room, the entrance to which from the garden has a doorway with a keel-arched head.

East of this is the surgery, with a high cupboard-fronted doorway similar to those before mentioned, opening to the marble hall. Outside the doorway, leading from the hall to the quad: is laid as a landing half a millstone, the corresponding half being similarly placed in front of the doorway to the servants' hall. Both stones still show the tothing which served for the grinding.


From the corridor along the back of "the cottage," the dining-room is reached, the exterior of which, fronting to the cottage garden, is shown on Plate 5; and east of this is a square hall, with a staircase to the upper floor of the cottage. This appears to have been a side entrance of some importance at one time (see Chatelain's view on Plate 1), and though

* *Lady Penelope Devereux, wife of Robert Lord Rich.*

† "*During the Persecution,*" *Autobiog. of Father Gerard.*

the floor is now rather lower than the level of the garden, it was probably approached earlier by a flight of steps. An old doorway to the left of this entrance, with pointed arch, now bricked up and covered by "rough cast" was, it is said, until a few years ago in evidence, suggesting by its position a lower ground level than is now the case; but we do not find any indication of this on Burlison's drawing of 1842.

Across the hall is a small room with a marble mantel-piece of some merit, but of uncertain date. Retracing our steps we find, on the other side of the corridor, what is now a lumber room, but was originally the bath room. The floor level is several steps below that of the cottage, and is partly stone flagged. It is lighted by a small barred window, and the rather low ceiling is supported by an old oak bresummer. The old bath, said to be six feet deep but now filled up, was a square sinking in the floor, and the descent into it by way of several steps; the sides & bottom were overlaid with tiles with patches of cement and stone. The old well which supplied the bath is below the cottage sitting-room; & the pump, removed from its old position adjacent, is now at the side of the steps leading from the principal staircase to the garden, referred to at page 27.

 In the upper floor of the cottage is a box room in the internal angle close to where the great arch, shown in the old prints, came. This has a small chimney-opening, and a window overlooking the main front; the ceiling slopes to the pitch of the roof. Opposite this is a lobby, with the second of the small circular windows hung on centres and looking south, as shown on Malcolm's drawing.

Beyond the last is the assistant matron's room, the chimney-piece of which alone claims attention.

*The
supposed
position of
the old
Chapel*

Completing our tour of the women's section, on the upper floor a corridor runs westward the length of the wing, as shown on Plate 4. The doorway entrance to the corridor has heavily wave-moulded jambs, with carved bases. It has been supposed by some that here is to be found the position of the old chapel. The ceiling of the principal room on the south is of vaulted shape, with stout moulded ribs at intervals springing from moulded corbels, below which have been fixed, at a later date, wood pilasters for support. The apartment is about 29 feet long by 11 feet wide. Apart from the roof, however, there is nothing to support the assumption that this was at one time the chapel, and it is, the writer thinks, disproved by other evidence.

Beyond is a bedroom with a similarly coved or vaulted ceiling, & another room with a plaster panelled ceiling with arms and crests thereon. The walls are partly panelled with seven rows of panels, spaced with fluted and reeded pilasters with carved and moulded caps, and a frieze surmounting the panelling. The mouldings are very small and clean, and form, in all probability, part of Lord Hunsdon's work.

Turning northward, we enter the corridor which, together with the separate apartments to which it gives access, formed the great gallery of the old mansion. The length of this gallery, or "long room" as it is now known, has been variously stated at 174 feet and 156 feet, the difference in the latter figure being probably accounted for by the exclusion of one of the end rooms. We believe that the gallery extended originally from end to end of the building, & that the longer dimension is the correct one.

☞ The ceiling of this gallery as originally existing, was panelled by intersecting modelled plaster mouldings, and these were filled with the arms and crests, alternating, of Lord and Lady Hunsdon. This panelling still remains, tho' by reason of the alterations which have been made, the work is now neither perfect nor complete.

It is this portion of the house (the long gallery) which mainly shows the lavish expenditure which must have been made by Lord Hunsdon, the walls being richly panelled with oak, elaborately carved, from floor to ceiling.

The very careful drawing of the gallery as restored, made for Lord Tyssen by Mr. Burlison some 62 years ago, and now in the Tyssen Library, gives an excellent idea of the appearance the gallery originally bore. An old writer upon Elizabethan Architecture thus aptly described similar apartments :

"The long and ample galleries of the period referred to, often of very low proportion as to height, which, although frequently placed on the upper floor were intended for exercise, libraries, or for pictures; the state rooms with delicate and rich cabinets, daintily and richly hung, glazed with crystalline glass and all other elegance that may be thought upon, show clearly enough that these grand rooms, in addition to the hall of Tudor times, and many chambers, small in fact, but much larger and more numerous than the closets of the mediæval dwellings, were the requirements of the day for mansions. At the same time that the plan of the mediæval residence was fitted to receive these results of alterations of manners & customs, it had, especially towards the end of Elizabeth's reign, to find room for the staircases, which became spacious & splendid examples of skill, decorated with carved ballusters and newels."

Modern requirements, however, necessitated the cutting up into ten or eleven separate apartments of this once splendid gallery, with the provision for each of a fireplace; and the row of chimnies from these built up from the ground level, and all on the outside, give a singular appearance to the garden front of the house.

It is said that in the open roof of one of the older parts of the house signs of smoke still mark the fact of its erection before chimneys were much in vogue.

It would appear that the divisional partition is quite modern square

framing, while the internal face of the outer wall abutting on the quad : is lined with the original Elizabethan panelling. Several of the windows have been filled up between the mullions, which remain still in position, with lath and plaster (the consequence perhaps of a window tax) & the deep recesses of the old windows have been converted into cupboards enclosed with modern panelling, which—were it in a more exposed position instead of on the dark side of the narrow gangway—would more glaringly exhibit the incongruity of its position—contiguous to the rich old work—than it does. The outer face of the windows where this filling in has been done has, alas ! been cemented and painted to represent sham windows.

The windows, deeply recessed, are flanked by cased carved and fluted pilasters, the base and surbase extending from floor to window-board; the lower third of the shaft is carved with leaf and tongue of quaint pattern, and the upper part divided by a moulded band from the lower, diminishing and fluted. Above is a moulded capping returned round the pilasters, and, as before-mentioned, the mouldings are of very small dimensions.

The pilasters flanking one of the windows have been repaired for a height of 5 ft. 3 in. by portions of carved work, to which there is no respond in the building. It may have formed part of an enrichment somewhere in the portion of the old mansion demolished at the time of Lord Hunsdon's alterations. Its character is certainly of an earlier date than the work it was intended to repair, and has no connection with the adjacent design. (See Plate 8.)

The windows of the long gallery on the garden-front are mostly modern, but those on the quadrangle side are of the original oak, and the panelling removed from the back wall has been utilised in the partitions which now divide the gallery into separate apartments.

The first of these separate apartments is now a bedroom, and has a chimney-piece of oak. The window is modern, one end of the room is panelled with the original wainscotting, and some of the same work, though mutilated, remains by the window.

The second room has also a good stone chimney-piece of the period, with an oak panelled mantel-piece with fluted pilasters over. The ceiling is plain, but traversed by oak beams.

In the angle turret by last is a small room now used as a housemaids' pantry, which was at one time probably a staircase to the lower floor. Two other rooms follow, both with portions of the "Hunsdon" ceiling intact.

Then eastward, on the right of the corridor are other rooms of little import, except that one has one of the curious high cupboard fronts previously noticed.

A "strong room" with a padded room adjoining follow, and here one cares not to linger.

We have now reached the upper floor of the more modern building, and this is practically within the roof: the king post trusses being 8 feet apart, and filled in to divide up the roof-space into rooms. A portion at the back is parted off with ashlaring to form a corridor the full length of the building. These attic rooms are the domestics' sleeping quarters, and complete the section allotted to the women. *The Servants' Quarters*

From the entrance hall northwards is a dining-room; and beyond, the kitchen and scullery (stone-flagged).

Westward of the kitchen, & at a lower level, is what is now the servants' hall—an oblong room, at one time divided by a central partition, as shown on ground plan. This is undoubtedly one of the most ancient parts of the building, as a small, low, stone-mullioned casement, and wide old-fashioned fireplace testify. *Present Servants' Hall*

One does not need a vivid imagination to picture the dressing here of many a boar's head and baron of beef for consumption by my lords and ladies of a bygone age.

The flight of stone steps leading down from the kitchen level was removed to its present position from the opposite end of the room (as shown on plan, they originally led up to the room over), and reversed within the term of the present occupier about thirty years ago, but the old square newels and carved balusters are still doing duty.

This department forms the central wing of the E plan, and divides the southern or inner quad from that on the north.

To the north of the kitchen is a store room (with a mighty key), once the brew-house, with corner vat, and now used by the steward, who has occupied his present office for some forty or fifty years, and to whose care we are indebted for the preservation of some of the most interesting relics of Lord Hunsdon's work—*e.g.*, the stone corbels dated 1573, of which more presently. *The Brew House*

Adjoining the steward's room is a carpenters' shop, now much dilapidated; and, though neither is of modern date, there is nothing calling for remark, except perhaps that where now is the fireplace in the steward's room was once a doorway leading to the gateway entrance to the second quadrangle. Opposite this, and at the end of what is the northern limb of the E, another old opening has been bricked up, a fresh entrance being constructed on the return as access to what once were the servants' sleeping rooms. At the other end a door opens on to the high road, and seems to have been the servants' entrance in the old days.

In the internal angle formed by this projecting limb and the main building is the hexagonal staircase turret illustrated on Plate 9. A similar angle turret is at the western end of this wing. *Staircase Turrets*

*The Old
Laundry*

The original laundry is now divided into three rooms, and beyond is a passage-way between the second and third quads.

*The East
Corridor*

Turning from this wing into the eastern main building, one enters the men's quarters, the dining room flanking eastward on to a corridor with an outlook to the quadrangle. This corridor is an extension made by the present proprietor, Dr. Adams, and is external to the main wall. The old three-light window was removed from the main wall, and re-fixed in its present position. This corridor is a continuation of that on the women's side, but is separated from it by a door, locked and sealed.


The upper floor of the men's quarters is approached by an angle stairway from the corridor, and to the left, in the central wing, is a billiard room—oak panelled from floor to ceiling, with windows on north and south overlooking the quadrangles. Beyond is a corridor where once a flight of stairs led down to the servants' hall, over which is now a bedroom with steps leading up to a door communicating with a room over the kitchen, part of the women's quarters.

*The four
and three-
bedded
rooms*

From the corridor on this upper floor are entered further rooms comprising the remainder of the "gallery," the ceilings and panelled walls corresponding with the other parts previously noted. Two of the rooms have good chimney-pieces. Beyond the last, and forming the upper floor of the northern wing, are rooms designated the "four-bedded room" & the "three-bedded room," the latter being panelled with oak on three of its sides and having a narrow mullioned window. In the "four-bedded room" is an over-door with a portrait head in full relief, carved to represent ('tis said) the queen-relative of Lord Hunsdon. If this be so, one cannot but assume that the carver was more complimentary than clever. A small leaded-light in the spiral staircase near this room is noticeable.

Towards the front of the premises is a room, now used by the Assistant Medical Officer; and which has an unusually heavy door and frame, rebated all round, with heavy ledges and chamfered panels on the outer side, close-boarded on the inner side, and hung with cross-garnet hinges. A small angle cupboard of the period, with moulded front and quadrant shelves, also should be noticed.

*The
Exterior,
South Side*

 The illustrations will show the external appearance of the mansion in its various aspects.

The southern garden front has already been referred to, but one may, in addition, notice the three-centred window in gable.

To this front has been quite recently added the projecting wing known as the servants' mess-room, built only about eight years ago. The small garden on to which this front looks is seldom used, the larger garden west of this being the daily exercise ground for the women-patients.

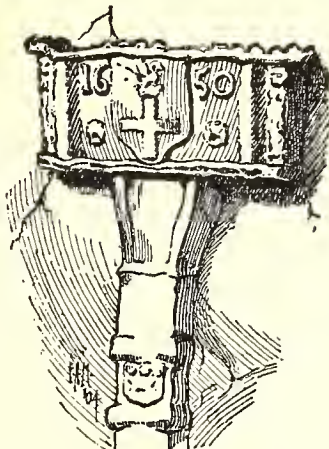
It is "the cottage," with the servants' hall on the north, which claim to

be the most ancient portions of the house. The southern front had at one time, according to Chatelain's print of 1750, a projecting central portion, with angle pilasters supporting a frieze and pediment, and on this a further wing addition with balcony, the octagonal turret showing in the rear. All these external features have disappeared, & the south front is now as shown on Plates 5 and 9.

The weather vane which once surmounted the turret now adorns the southern gable.

Below and between the two outside chimneys is a small projecting window, which, local report says, is where the monks of olden time used to hear the confessions of their penitent followers. Some

The South Front



of the old decorated chimney-pots are still doing duty, and there is still in position a lead rain-water pipe and cast lead head with the crest of Lord Brooke—a swan rising from a ducal coronet—and the date, 1650. There is also a shield bearing the arms on the collar of the pipe below this. (See sketch.) The west, or garden, front is shown on Plate 5.

The West Side


The feature of this frontage is unquestionably the row of external chimneys which break the long western face into many bays.

Mention may here be made of the traditional underground passage, which was said to have had its exit at the end of the lawn far away from the house, and of an old well which has within recent years been located, also on the lawn.

At the front of the house are placed several stones, finials and corbels, claimed to have been discovered & since cared for by the steward. Considering the date of their execution and the fact of their having been disinterred from a rubbish-heap, they are in a remarkable state of preservation. This is doubtless due to the properties of the stone, apparently a blue-grey Portland, which has weathered excellently and preserved the very beautiful though grotesque designs to be seen thereon.

The East Side

The corbels now at each side of the entrance-gate are about 20 × 15 × 7 inches, that on the south side has one face only in good condition, representing a well-designed floral scroll of conventional character entwining an ape chained by the neck to a portion of the design, other portions being grasped by the animal. The reverse to this stone has suffered much and the design is almost obliterated. The lower and outer edges of the corbel show a border of castanet pattern, continued round the volute which fronts the upper portion.


The corbel on the north side of the entrance gates shows on the north face a similar design to that just referred to, with the exception that the figure of an infant is substituted for the ape, the chain being absent, but the position with regard to the design being identical. On the reverse appears the scroll design surrounding the presentment of a parrot *ram-pant regardant*, holding aloft a pair of spectacles, of a size nearly its own. These two stones were in all probability the supports to a bay window of slight projection such as may now be seen overlooking the central quad.  A pair of stones, now placed at the top of the steps leading from the front to the tradesmen's entrance, measure about 2 feet in height by a projection of only 6 inches, with a width of 7 inches. These exhibit on the side faces a scroll design finishing at the upper and slightly wider end with a flower-calyx, from the centre of which emerges an infant's figure. The fronts are carved.

The remaining two of these most interesting relics of Lord Hunsdon's occupation, are now at the foot of the steps of the principal entrance, and exhibit on the front face of each the date 1573. It seems probable, therefore, that these all formed part of what was in existence when Lord Hunsdon came into possession, & were incorporated in the new works, only to be again disturbed when their surroundings were demolished to make way for the present modern front. They have much of the Italian character of the work of the period.

The Quad-rangles

Of the quadrangles every corner seems to have an old-time aspect: the narrow mullioned bays, carried from cill level on carved brackets; the over-hanging eaves; the Tudor and keel-headed doorways; the quaint latticed windows and angle stair-turrets; the huge buttressed chimney, seven feet thick at the base, are some of the features; and one cannot help contrasting the quiet restfulness of the quad with the noisy modernity of the high road beyond: or the goings to and fro' of the mighty dead—of kings and queens, statesmen and warriors, saints and martyrs, philosophers and poets, priests and reformers—whose power and intellect have made English history—with the sad collection of overwrought or undergifted men and women to whose footfall these walls now echo.

The outlying Properties

 A terrace of private houses situated to the south of Brooke House, forms part of the estate and is now utilised with the main building for asylum purposes. A corner of the block is to be seen in Malcolm's view of 1797. There are, on the extreme north, other buildings of ancient date, also forming part of the estate, and doubtless in other days the quarters for the retainers of the noble dwellers at the mansion; but now let separately and turned into shops.

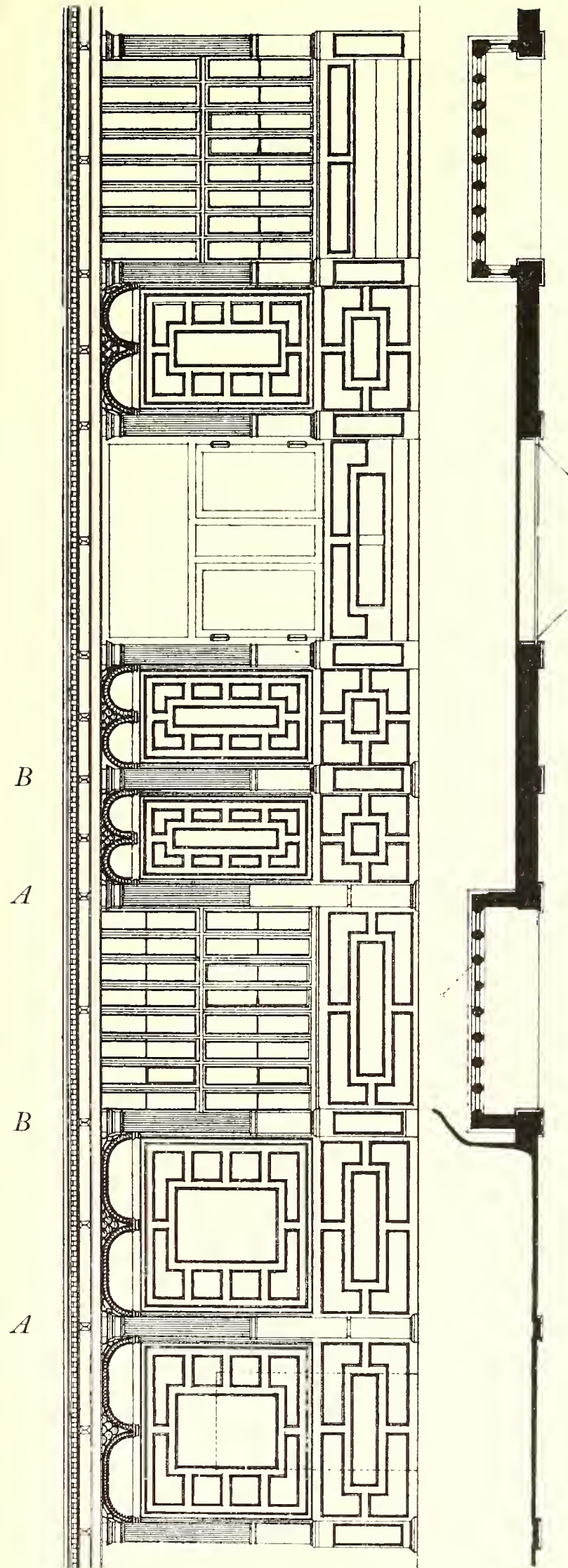
The line-of-frontage scare has not yet affected the boundaries, though one hears that a part of the "cottage" is already doomed, to accommodate a tramway scheme; but whether this be so or no, one quits the building



View of West, or Garden side.

Photo. by G. H. Lovegrove. 1904.

*Panelling, Windows,
&c., on East side of
Long Gallery.*



No. 1.

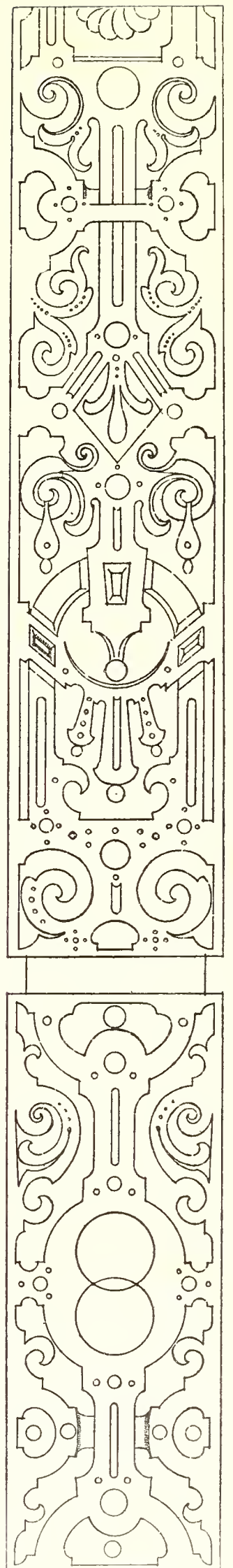


No. 2.

*No. 1. General Eleva-
tion and plan.*

*No. 2. Detail of car-
ving on pilasters
B.B.*

*No. 3. Detail of car-
ving on pilasters
A.A.*



No. 3.

with the hope that Hackney, together with all who are personally connected with Brooke House, may permit no vandalism to rob of one of its long treasured possessions, a district richer, as Sir Walter Besant maintains, in memorials of this kind, than any other suburb of London ; and if the publication of this monograph do no more than create an increased interest in this local specimen of Elizabethan architecture, with its romance and tradition, and a determination to save it from destruction, we shall not have laboured in vain.

The writer's thanks are due, and are here gratefully tendered to those who have so willingly assisted in, and afforded facilities for, the compilation of these notes :—to Dr. J. O. Adams the proprietor, and Miss Hobbs the Matron, for free access and conduct to the uttermost parts of the building ; to Mr. W. Haskett Smith, a descendant of Sir John Elryngton, for valuable information as to the Elryngton family ; to the Hackney Borough Council for permission to reproduce from the Tyssen Library some of the illustrations, and to Mr. F. W. Reader for much expert assistance in the reproduction ; to Mrs. Ernest Godman, whose charming frontispiece speaks for itself ; to my colleagues of the Survey Committee whose names appear against their work, & to the Secretary to whose initiative the work owes its inception.

The following is a list of the chief books and MSS. consulted for historical and other information :—

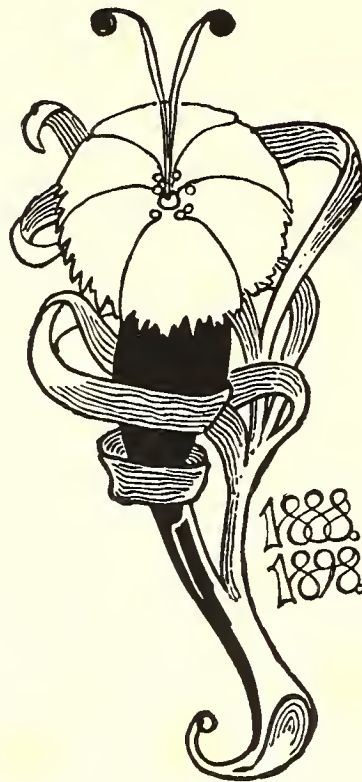
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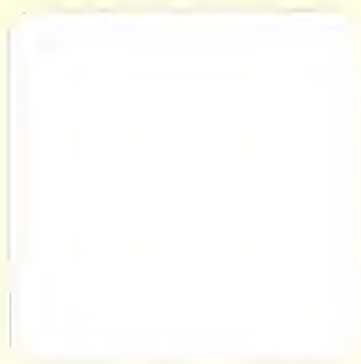
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